

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were pending. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 8 have been amended. Claims 11-16 have been canceled. Claims 17 and 18 are new. Claims 1-10, 17, and 18 are pending.

The Office Action Summary indicates under Application Papers, item no. 9, that the specification is objected to by the Examiner. The Detailed Action, however, is silent as to any problem with the specification, and none is evident to applicant. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection either be explained or withdrawn.

The title of the invention has been amended. The scope of the new title conform more closely to that of the pending claims.

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,433,539 to German. Reconsideration of this rejection respectfully is requested.

Claim 1 recites a system for supporting a film that includes, *inter alia*, “a first device having a first end and a second end, each of said ends having a diameter,” “a gear attached to said second end,” and “a second device for rotatably receiving the film from the first device, said second device having a first end and a second end, and wherein each of said ends of said second device has a diameter, and said second device does not comprise an operative gear.

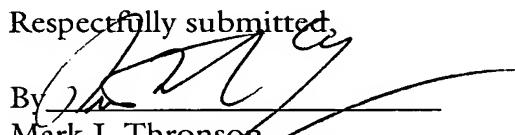
German discloses a ribbon supply apparatus in which a supply spool and a take-up spool both feature toothed gears. German does not anticipate the invention recited in claim 1 in which a “first device” has “a gear attached to a second end,” and “a second device” does not have “an operative gear.” The invention recited in claim 1 is not anticipated by German. Claims 2-4 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and so are patentable over German for at least the same reasons.

Claim 5 recites an ink film supply system including, *inter alia*, “a supply core having a first cylindrical end and a second cylindrical end, each of said ends having an exterior diameter, and wherein said exterior diameter of said second cylindrical end is greater than said exterior diameter of said first cylindrical end, and said supply core does not comprise an operative gear,” and “a take-up core for taking up ink film from said supply core, said take-up core having a first end and a second end, and wherein each of said ends of said take-up core has an exterior diameter,” and “a gear on said second end of said take-up core.”

German discloses supply and take-up spools that feature matching gear teeth. German does not anticipate the invention recited in claim 5. Claims 6-10, 17, and 18 depend directly or indirectly from claim 5, and so are patentable over German for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,
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